

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 18-25 are added. No new matter is added by the above amendments. In particular, independent claim 18 is a generic method claim that is generic to the methods recited in independent claims 8, 10 and 12, and independent apparatus claim 22 is a generic apparatus claim that is generic to the apparatus recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 5. New dependent claims 19-21 are based on independent claims 8, 10 and 12, respectively, and new dependent claims 23-25 are based on independent claims 1, 3 and 5, respectively.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group II directed to method claims 8-14 with traverse. With respect to the secondary Election of Species Requirement, Applicants elect Species I directed to claims 8 and 9 with traverse. In addition, Applicants submit that newly-added independent claim 18 is generic to all of the claimed methods, and that claims 18 and 19 also read on the elected Species. Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction and Election Requirements for the following reasons.

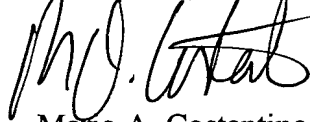
First, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements are improper, and that the Examiner can examine (and, in fact, already has examined) all claims without undue burden because the Examiner already has issued two Office Actions on original claims 1-17, which have not been amended during prosecution of this application. Thus, the Examiner already has twice-examined claims 1-17, and thus there is no undue burden to continue examining these claims.

Second, with respect to the Restriction Requirement between the apparatus and method claims, as set forth in the Restriction Requirement, both groups of claims have the same class and subclass. Thus, there is no undue burden to examine all apparatus and method claims at the same time.

Third, with respect to the Election of Species Requirement, the Election of Species Requirement is legally faulty because it is not appropriate to make an Election of Species Requirement between claims. See MPEP 806.04(e), which states "claims are never species." As stated further on in this section of the MPEP "species are always the specifically different embodiments." Thus, the Office Action has not set forth a tenable Election of Species Requirement.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the Restriction Requirement and the Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn. Furthermore, upon allowance of generic claims 18 and 22, all pending claims should be rejoined and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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